

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

84 (Currently amended). A method of forming a fastener product, the method comprising

providing a rotating mold roll having mold cavities shaped to form loop-engageable fastener hooks hook elements;

introducing in a longitudinal direction separate, spaced apart amounts of molten resin to the mold roll in a manner to fill the mold cavities and form respective resin bases at the surface of the mold roll;

introducing a pre-formed, elastically stretchable sheet material to the spaced-apart amounts of resin to laminate a surface of the material to the bases, [[with]] the bases being spaced-apart from each other and the sheet material extending laterally across the resin bases such that the surface is exposed in at least one resin-free region of the material extending between [[and connecting]] the bases;

[[with the pre-formed sheet material connecting the bases,]] cooling the resin in the mold cavities to form molded fastener hook elements integrally molded with and extending from the bases; and

thereafter, pulling the molded fastener hook elements from the mold cavities of the rotating mold roll to separate the molded fastener [[product]] hook elements from the mold roll to form an elastic web carrying fastener hook elements.

85 (Currently amended). The method of claim 84 in which the mold roll has its mold cavities arranged to form longitudinally continuous, spaced apart bands of loop-engageable fastener hook elements.

86 (Cancelled).

87 (Currently amended). The method of claim [[86]] 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material is elastically stretchable in only a [[transverse]] direction that is transverse to the longitudinal direction.

88 (Currently amended). The method of claim [[86]] 84 in which the elastically stretchable material includes at least a textile component.

89 (Previously presented). The method of claim 88 in which the textile component comprises a stretchable nonwoven material that defines hook-engageable loops.

90 (Previously presented). The method of claim 89 in which the nonwoven material comprises a needled batt of staple fibers which has been stretched substantially in one direction only while the batt has been allowed to neck-in in the cross machine direction, with a binder stabilizing the material in said stretched state, whereby the material is substantially elastically stretchable in only one direction corresponding to the direction in which it has not been stretched during manufacture.

91 (Cancelled).

92 (Withdrawn).

93 (Currently amended). The method of claim 84 in which the molded fastener hook elements are molded to have crooks that individually point in a given respective direction.

94 (Previously presented). The method of claim 84 in which the bases comprise longitudinally continuous bands of the resin, with longitudinally exposed regions of sheet material therebetween.

95 (Currently amended). The method of claim 84 in which the fastener hook elements each have a molded stem that tapers outwardly to narrower dimension from a relatively wide width at its base.

96 (Previously presented). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material is stretchable in one direction and relatively inextensible in a perpendicular direction.

97 (Previously presented). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material comprises a layer of thermoplastic elastomer.

98 (Currently amended). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material has at least one side which defines hook-engageable loops exposed for engagement by fastener hook elements.

99 (Previously presented). The method of claim 98 in which the side which defines hook-engageable loops lies on the same side of the pre-formed sheet material as, and closely adjacent to, the bases.

100 (Previously presented). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material comprises multiple layers, including a pre-formed upper layer to which the bases are laminated.

101 (Previously presented). The method of claim 100 in which the pre-formed sheet material includes a lower, elastically stretchable layer.

102 (Previously presented). The method of claim 84 wherein the resin-free region of pre-formed sheet material is wider than the bases adjoining the resin-free region.

103 (Previously presented). The method of claim 102 wherein said resin-free region is between about two and five times wider than the adjoining bases.